

## **CARIM EAST – CONSORTIUM FOR APPLIED RESEARCH ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

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### ***Return Migration – Russia***

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## I. Forced return migration

### 1. Readmission

Russia has signed readmission agreements with a number of states (Table 1). Readmission practice under international agreements commenced in October 2007.

**Table 1. Readmission Agreements signed by the Russian Federation**

Country	Date of Readmission Agreement
Lithuania	12.05.2003
European Union	15.05.2006
Norway	08.06.2007
Uzbekistan	04.07.2007
Denmark	27.05.2008
Iceland	23.09.2008
Vietnam	27.10.2008
Switzerland	21.09.2009
Armenia	20.08.2010
Turkey	18.01.2011
Kazakhstan	07.06.2012
Kyrgyzstan	11.10.2012
Ukraine	22.10.2012
Lichtenstein	20.12.2012

Besides, proper executive agreements on the implementation of readmission agreements have been signed with all the countries where there are basic readmission agreements.

In Russia, the central authority in charge of implementation of readmission agreements is the Federal Migration Service (FMS) of Russia; the Ministry of Interior (MOI) and the Federal Security Service (FSS) are also in charge of the implementation of these kinds of agreements. FMS of Russia collects statistical information and publishes the generalized data on its web-site <http://www.fms.gov.ru> in the section "Basic activity indicators of FMS of Russia" => "Official statistical data of FMS of Russia" (Statistical form 1-RD) => Section 11: "Readmission".

**Table 2. Data on Readmission**

	2010	2011	2012
Number of persons released by foreign states and accepted by Russia at checkpoints on the Russian borders under international readmission agreements signed by the RF	361	1158	641
including:			
citizens of the RF	336	990	404
foreign citizens	0	15	2
stateless persons	0	4	0
Transit	25	149	235
Number of persons released from Russia in the framework of implementation of international readmission agreements	4	193	211

Source: Data of the FMS of Russia

Since the beginning of readmission practice (October 2007) the Russian Federation has examined a total of 8,104 applications, of which 5,112 were approved, and 2,992 were rejected. For the given period 2,210 persons were admitted to Russian Federation territory at national border checkpoints, as released by the foreign states under international readmission agreements.

**Table 3. States from which the highest number of applications was received under international readmission agreements**

Country	Total for the period of implementation of readmission agreements (from October 2007 to January 2013)	For 2011	For 2012
Germany	4 529	873	687
Sweden	1 008	246	280
Norway	873	292	185
Austria	754	213	233
Netherlands	458	103	164
TOTAL	9410	1876	2163

Source: Data of FMS of Russia

Also, since the beginning of implementation of readmission practice the Russian Federation has sent 455 readmission applications regarding persons who were staying on the territory of the country illegally, 378 of them approved.

## 2. Administrative expulsion, deportation

According to FMS Russia data, as of 1 December, 2012, there were 10,287,456 foreign nationals and stateless persons on Russian Federation territory. Some of them were staying on RF territory illegally or had committed administrative or criminal offences on RF territory, which served as reason for their administrative expulsion or deportation from the country.

According to Russian migration legislation, the *administrative expulsion* of a foreign national or stateless person from the Russian Federation is applied if he/she committed illegal actions, which are in conflict with national security interests, protection of state borders, or public order. Administrative expulsion is also carried out if the person committed a gross violation of the Law on legal status of foreigners, or on customs, currency, or any other Russian legislation. Administrative expulsion, pursuant to Article 3.10 of the Code of Administrative Offense of the RF, is ordered by a judge. If a foreign citizen was subject to administrative expulsion, he/she is not allowed to re-enter the Russian Federation for the next five years.

*Deportation* is forced expulsion of a foreign citizen or stateless person from Russia in case of loss or termination of legal grounds for his/her continuous stay and residence in the RF. Deportation takes place based on the decision of authorized officials – director of the FMS of Russia or chief of the regional office of Russian FMS.

Data on expulsion and deportation is presented in Table 4.

**Table 4. Data on expulsion and deportation from the territory of the Russian Federation, 2008-2012**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Identified foreign citizens and stateless persons staying on the territory of the RF illegally	163721	272160	246767	219536	234037
- including: those who left the Russian Federation			69420	76071	84253
Foreign citizens and stateless persons expelled from the Russian Federation based on court decision, including:	21167	33129	29199	27929	30566
- in the form of independent uncontrolled departure					17830
- in the form of forced removal across the border					12736
Foreign citizens and stateless persons deported from the Russian Federation	61	150	362	656	942
Number of foreign citizens or stateless persons who left the Russian Federation independently, where a decision was adopted by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation about the undesirability of their stay (residence) in the Russian Federation					1084

Source: Data of FMS of Russia

The authority in charge of deportation and control over administrative expulsion in the form of independent controlled departure from the Russian Federation, is the Federal Migration Service. Administrative expulsion, in the form of a forced controlled move of foreign citizens across the national border of the Russian Federation, is performed by the Service of court enforcement officers of the Russian Ministry of Justice. A deportation decision is made directly by the administration of the FMS based on a justified presentation submitted by the chief of the structural subdivision of the relevant regional FMS office: in contrast to a case of administrative expulsion, when the decision is made by the court. General data on the number of foreign citizens and stateless persons who were deported and expelled from Russia, is published on the web-site of the FMS Of Russia at <http://www.fms.gov.ru> in the section “Basic activity indicators of FMS of Russia” => “Official statistical data of FMS of Russia” (Statistical form 1-RD) => Section 1, part 1 and section 2.

## **II. Voluntary return migration**

### **1. Voluntary return**

In Russian statistics of migration flows it is difficult to identify the category of migrants who return to Russia voluntarily after a temporary stay/residence in foreign countries, not least because of peculiarities in the data collection system. Citizens of the Russian Federation returning home are not statistically observed. They do not fill out either migration cards when crossing the border, or statistical information sheets when registering at their place of residence.

As for foreign citizens, the Russian Statistic Service publishes the data based on the statistical information sheets of migrants received from the FMS of Russia. Migrant statistical information sheets

include a number of questions which are important for migration analysis (place of birth, citizenship, country of previous stay, education level, marital status). However, further processing of obtained information (at least of the information published in tables) do not permit any connection between the place of birth and country of previous stay, which would let us define a migrant as “returning to Russia”. At the same time, aggregate tables include information on the distribution of migrants (at the age of 14 and older) by reasons of change of place of residence, one of which is “return to the previous place of residence” (see Table 5). However, it should be remembered that voluntary return migration can also underlie such reasons as “personal, family issues” (147441 persons in 2011).

**Table 5. Permanent migrants\* in Russia 14 and older, who indicated their reason for entering the country as “return to the previous place of residence”, 2006-2011,**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total arrivals due to return to previous place of residence	11628	14357	11528	29095	5970	7669
including:						
- citizens of Russia **	10902	11764	9149	7856	5423	5744
- foreign citizens	564	2333	2181	2526	458	1778
- stateless persons	48	118	103	99	44	88

\* Until 2011 “permanent migrants” were defined as persons who have been registered at their place of stay for 12 months and more. Starting from 2011 statistical evidence of permanent (“long-term”) migration includes persons registered at their place of stay for nine months and longer.

\*\* A high share of Russian citizens among immigrants can be explained by the existent practice of facilitated acquisition of Russian citizenship, when migrants acquire Russian citizenship in an expedited manner, within several months, and only after that they register at their place of residence, at the same time falling in the statistical observations as migrants.

Source: Population of the Russian Federation and Migration, Statistical Yearbook, Russian Statistic Service, Moscow

As for the distribution of migrants by countries from which they come, many migrants arrive in Russia from Germany and Israel (those states to which migration flows from Russia were mostly directed for the last two decades). These are likely those who left the Russian Federation, but for some reason could not integrate in the host countries, and returned to Russia (see Table 6).

**Table 6. Permanent migration to Russia from Germany and Israel, 1997-2011, people**

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Germany	2379	2425	1894	1753	1627	1962	2692	3117	3025	2900	3164	3134	2585	2621	4520
Israel	1626	1528	1425	1508	1373	1670	1808	1486	1004	1053	1094	1002	861	814	1240

Source: Data of the Russian Statistics Service

Those migrants who arrive to Russia in the framework of State program on facilitation of voluntary move to the Russian Federation for fellow countrymen residing abroad (“State program”) are often migrants returning to Russia voluntarily. Not all of them were migrants from Russia in the past; some of them are descendants of migrants. Family members of State program participants could have had no connection with Russia whatsoever in the past. Nevertheless, we are providing statistics of the persons moving to Russia through this migration channel, as they are viewed precisely as fellow countrymen returning to Russia, and special, preferential integration (re-integration) conditions are created for them in Russia (Table 7).

**Table 7. Number of persons, who moved to Russia in the State program framework 2008-2012**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of persons who moved to Russia as participants of the State program, and their family members in the given year	8758	7468	10822	29462	56874
Number of persons who moved to Russia and are registered with the regional offices of the Russian FMS as participants of State program, and their family members (total)	9375	16232	27019	57535	114409

Source: Data of FMS of Russia

Fellow countrymen arrive mostly from Kazakhstan (33% of relocated persons), Uzbekistan (20%), Ukraine (9%), Moldova (11%), Kyrgyzstan (8%), Armenia (7%) and Tajikistan (5%) (data for 2012).

## **2. Facilitated voluntary return**

For the Russian FMS, a contribution to the voluntary return of migrants is a new form of activity which has been implemented so far only in the framework of the pilot project in 2011-2012 (with participation of the International Organization for Migration). The results of the project will be provided at the conference scheduled for February 2013. Until this time, the project results are unavailable.